

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Dated.....25.11.2014

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 17th August, 1953

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-22 A.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri Dasaratha Deb:

"I could not attend this session of Parliament from the beginning, owing to my serious illness.

So I request you to allow me to remain absent from the House from the 3rd August."

If it be the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri Dasaratha Deb for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the present session?

Leave was granted.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME
MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Three months ago, on May 15th, I made a statement on foreign

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affairs in this House. I referred then to the many evidences of a new approach to the solution of international problems, and, in particular, to the desire shown on all sides for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The long drawn-out negotiations at Pan Mun Jon, with all their ups and downs, appeared gradually to be moving towards some settlement. There were set-backs again, but ultimately the major hurdle in the way, that relating to the prisoners of war, was crossed. On June 8th an agreement was signed between the parties in regard to the prisoners of war. This agreement, in all its main features, bore a close resemblance to the Indian resolution which has been adopted by the General Assembly some months earlier.

In this agreement a heavy responsibility was cast upon India. For any country, and more especially for us, this was a novel experience. We were reluctant to assume new responsibilities, especially in an international theatre of operations. But the circumstances were such that it would have been improper for us to evade this heavy responsibility. The cause of peace, to which we are devoted, as well as the faith placed in us by other countries, demanded this service from us. We accepted these duties, therefore, in a spirit of humility and in the faith that we would continue to receive the generous cooperation of other countries in the tasks that were being entrusted to us.

Almost everyone thought that the final armistice agreement would be signed soon after. But, unexpectedly,

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a series of deplorable events delayed this realisation and brought a period of grave uncertainty. Doubts arose whether the conditions in which we had expected to function in Korea would in fact be established. After several weeks of suspense, the long-awaited armistice agreement was signed at Pan Mun Jon on the morning of July 27th, and fighting came to an end a few hours later

This armistice agreement introduced no modification of the terms of the prisoners of war agreement, although the release of a large number of prisoners of war by the South Korean Government had vitally affected that agreement. The way was cleared for us to proceed with the preparations for fulfilling our responsibilities. These were three-fold. The Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission consisted of representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and India. To the Indian member was assigned the responsible position of Chairman and executive agent of the Commission. We were further charged with supplying forces and operating personnel for the custody of the prisoners of war who had not been repatriated directly by the detaining sides, and, thirdly, our Red Cross was asked to undertake all Red Cross work in connection with such prisoners of war.

It must be remembered that the armistice had been arrived at between the two Commands—the U.N. Command on the one side and the Chinese and North Korean Commands on the other. We had thus to deal with these Commands directly. As a first step, we decided to send an advance party to Korea to confer with these two Commands and to report to us what detailed arrangements we had to make. This advance party was led by the Foreign Secretary and had representatives of our armed forces and Red Cross. They were to assure themselves that India's representatives and armed forces would be able to function in an honourable capacity and

under conditions in keeping with India's self-respect and dignity. This had become a vital matter because of certain improper and undignified statements that had been made on behalf of the South Korean Government in regard to India's representatives and forces. This advance party left Delhi on August 5th. They have completed their labours and are returning tomorrow. I should like to express my gratitude to the two Commands for the courtesy and help they have given to our representatives. From such reports as we have had from our advance party, their talks with these Commands have been in every way satisfactory.

In view of the novel and heavy responsibilities cast upon India, we have taken special care to choose suitable representatives for the various duties entrusted to us. Our representative on the Repatriation Commission and its Chairman will be Lieutenant-General K. S. Thimayya and the Alternate Representative will be Shri B. N. Chakravarty, our Ambassador at the Hague. These officers, with some members of their staff, are expected to leave for Korea in the first week of September, so as to be in time to complete all preliminary arrangements before the Commission begins to function by the end of September.

Arrangements have also been made for the despatch of the Indian Custodian Force. This will be under the command of Major-General Thorat. It is estimated that a total of about 5,000 persons including Red Cross staff, will be required for service in Korea. Of these, nearly 4,000 men will embark at Madras on three ships within the next few days, the first ship S. S. JALADURGA leaving tomorrow. The remaining number of men are expected to sail some days later as soon as a fourth ship becomes available.

I am placing before the House these details because Members will no doubt be interested in the work that our people are going to do in Korea. They

have gone there on a mission of peace and I am sure that they carry with them the goodwill of every section of this House and of the country.

The conclusion of the armistice has been a great event, but the future is full of difficulty. The armistice agreement has laid down that, in order to ensure the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, a Political Conference of a higher level of both sides should be within three months after the armistice agreement is signed and becomes effective, "to settle through negotiations the questions of withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea, the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, etc." These are difficult questions which require calm and dispassionate consideration and a will to peace if they are to be solved satisfactorily. Unfortunately, there have been indications recently that this will to peace is not always in evidence, and even threats have been held out. One party has stated that unless its demands are acceded to within a stated time, it reserves its right to start military operations again. Agreements have been made and assurances given, which have not been fully made public, and we do not know how far they might come in the way of a full discussion of this problem in the Political Conference.

A special session of the U.N. General Assembly is meeting in New York today to consider this problem. It must be remembered, however, that the armistice agreement is between two parties and the U. N. Assembly represents one such party, that is, the U. N. Command. Any decisions, in order to be effective, must have the concurrence of both parties.

Neither the composition nor the functions of the Political Conference have yet been determined and there appears to be a considerable difference of opinion, even among members of the United Nations as to the composition of the Conference. India has been mentioned as a country which should be represented in this Conference. I should like to say that we

have no desire to seek a place in this Conference or elsewhere unless it is clear that we can perform some useful function in the interests of peace and the major parties concerned desire our assistance in this matter. I earnestly hope that the approach to this Conference will be made in a temper of peace and with the firm determination to settle the problems of the Far East in a peaceful way. Any recurrence of war in Korea will be a tragedy and anything that encourages the atmosphere of war will be a misfortune.

The House is aware that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has come to Delhi at our invitation. We welcome him as a distinguished guest and we would like to assure him and his country that we are anxious to settle every problem that has unfortunately embittered relations between the two countries, in a peaceful way. There may be and are difficulties, and sometimes a solution is not easy to find. But where there is a firm desire to follow the path of peace and reconciliation, there can be no doubt that success will come. I visited Karachi and had long and profitable talks with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. At the end of those talks we issued a joint statement in the course of which we stated that "the independence and integrity of the two countries must be fully respected, each country having full freedom to follow a policy of its choice in domestic as well as international affairs." "At the same time", the statement continued, "The Prime Ministers are convinced that the interests of both countries demand the largest possible measure of co-operation between them and that, therefore, every effort should be made not only to resolve the existing Indo-Pakistan disputes but also to promote goodwill and friendship between the two countries. They consider this essential to progress in both countries and to the promotion of the welfare of the common man, which is their primary concern." By this statement our Government stands and I have no doubt that our people generally are firm-

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ly behind this policy. It is a matter of deep regret to me that some sections of the people of Pakistan as well as some in India occasionally challenge this basic policy. Only those who have little understanding of the world today and of our respective countries and have no vision at all, can think in terms of conflict between the two countries which geography, history and a common past inevitably bring together. We are firmly resolved to pursue this policy and not to be diverted from it, even though some people may be swept away by the passion and prejudice of the moment.

Our long struggle for freedom in this country led us to an understanding of, and a deep sympathy with, similar struggles in other countries. That was the basis of our policy, even when we worked for our own independence. That policy inevitably continues today not only as an inheritance from the past but as an understanding of the present. Peace, it has been said, is indivisible. So also is freedom, and no structure of world peace can be built on the denial of freedom to countries and large masses of people. It is a matter of deep regret to us that this basic fact is not recognised and given effect to in many countries.

Even apart from the question of political freedom, the question of racial discrimination and suppression has become one of the outstanding problems of today. We have no desire to interfere in the affairs of other countries just as we are not prepared to tolerate any interference with our country. But there are certain factors which override national boundaries and which affect the well-being of the human race. Among these factors is this question of racial discrimination and the suppression of one race by another. That is an affront to the men and women of Asia and of Africa, as well as to every sensitive human being. I have, therefore, ventured to express in clear language what we think of this inhumanity and complete denial of what the Charter of the

United Nations stands for. I am certain that, in saying so, I have echoed the feeling of every single person of the 360 millions who inhabit this country as well as of hundreds of millions of other peoples in Asia and Africa. We can never tolerate this idea of racial discrimination and inequality.

ANDHRA STATE BILL

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I beg to present the report of the Committee on Petitions on the Andhra State Bill, 1953.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegation to the Sixth World Assembly held in Geneva in May, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. IV. D.O.(24).]

NOTIFICATION UNDER DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY ACT

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Transport Notification No. 18-TAG(2)/53, dated the 3rd August, 1953, under sub-section (3) of Section 52 of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Act, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No. S-100/53.]

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of Section 4 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2(A) of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1950, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, a member